

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## “HEARTACHE” BY ANTON CHEKHOV ANALYSIS GUIDE

### VOCABULARY

Define the following terms that appear in this short story. You should use context clues from the story to define them, and only refer to a dictionary if you are stuck.

Term	Definition
Nag	
Irresolutely	
Vexation	
Allayed	

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your board note titled “Short Story Literary Elements” to help you answer these questions. Remember to include evidence from the story to support your answers.

1. In your own words, describe the opening scene on page 94. Where is this story taking place? Identify the physical location, as well as the time period.
2. Provide an example of, and evaluate the use of, the following literary devices throughout the text.
  - a. Personification
  - b. Irony
  - c. Imagery
  - d. Enrichment Extension – identify 2 other literary devices used throughout the text. Provide an example of these devices, and evaluate their use.
3. Why does Iona feel the need to tell his passengers of his son’s death? How do his passengers react?
  - a. Are Iona’s passengers justified in brushing him off? Why or why not?
  - b. If you were one of Iona’s passengers hearing his story, would your reaction more likely resemble that of the officer or that of the three young boys? Why?

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4. Discuss the look of “anxiety and torment” in Iona’s eyes on page 97. What is he worrying about?
  - a. In this case, how are the feelings of anxiety and torment similar for Iona?
5. On page 99, the Narrator observes that when Iona is alone, “he dares not think of his son. It is possible to talk about him with someone, but to think of him when [he] is alone, to evoke his image is unbearably painful”. Why do you think this is the case for Iona? Describe the meaning of this passage, and how it helps to explain some of Iona’s actions throughout the story.
6. Why is it cathartic for Iona to tell his story to his nag?
7. How old was Iona’s son? Why do you think this?

## **REFLECTION**

In a 1-page reflection piece, describe a time when you felt nobody would listen to you. What was it that you were trying to say? Why do you think your story was devoid of an audience? How did you end up getting your story out? Was this method of delivery effective? Why or why not? How did you feel after finally having your story heard?